

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 03447 151614Z

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SEVERAL NIGERIAN PAPERS COMMENTED ON INDO CHINA.

1. PRIL 14: INDEPENENT NEWSWEEKLY "TIMES INTERNATIONAL" CARRIED  
THREE ARTICLES ON INDOCHINA.

A. FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL, "LESSONS FOR INDOCHINA," MENTIONS  
"CORRUPTION AND GROSS INEFFICENCY" OF "SAIGON AND PHNON"-PENH  
REGIMES," SAYS THE " THE TRAGEDY OF INDOCHINA ILLUSTRATES THE  
DANGER OF OVER-DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN POWERS, THAT CAMBODIA AND  
SOUTH VIETNAM DEPENDED "SO HEAVILY ON THE UNITED STATES....  
THAT THEY FAILED TO APPRECIATE THE MERIT OF SELF-RELIANCE. IS  
IT REALLY ASTONISHING THAT WITH WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN AID  
THEY SHOULD NOW FIND THEMSELVES COMPLETELY HELPLESS?

EDITORIAL SAID US HAD LONG TRIED TO CONTAIN COMMUNISM  
IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA, BUT "HOLLOWNESS OF THE POLICY WAS  
LAID BARE.....

"IT IS IRRELEVANT TO CONDEMN THE US FOR LEAVING HERE  
CAMBODIAN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE ALLIES IN THE LURCH. VERY FEW  
SMALL, WEEK COUNTRIES... HAVE TRIED TO ACQUIRE... A STATUS  
MUCH BETTER THAN THAT OF MERE PAWNS... OF BIG POWER POLITICS.  
AND AS LONG AS THEY ARE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO MOULD THEIR  
LIVES THEIR OWN WAY, SO LONG THEY WILL CONTINUE TO EAT THE  
BITTER BREAD OF ABANDONMENT..."

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 03447 151614Z

B. TIMES INT'L ARTICLE, "IS THE DOMINO DOCTRINE OBSOLETE?"

REVIEWS U.S. AREA PARTICIPATION, CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF CONTINUED AID, CONCLUDES:

"THE QUESTION THAT NOW CONFRONTS THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IS WHAT TO DO TO SAVE AMERICAN'S PRESTIGE AMONG ITS ALLIES... BOTH PRESIDENT (AND SEC. KISSINGER)... HAVE ATTRIBUTED (MID-EAST PEACE MISSION FAILURE)... TO THE CONGRESS'S REFUSAL TO APPROVE MORE MILITARY AID FOR INDOCHINA. WITH PORTUGAL... STEADILY GOING LEFT AND WITH ITS OTHER TWO STRONG NATO ALLIES, GREECE AND TURKEY PARTIAL WAYS, THE FORD ADMINISTRATION FEELS A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO ITS INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA IS VITAL TO THE CREDIBILITY OF ITS SELF-IMPOSED ROLE AS THE BASTION OF ANTI-COMMUNISM..."

C. TIMES INT'L COMMENTARY, "SOUTH EAST ASIA: THE DECLINE OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE," SAYS: "RECENT US CONGRESSIONAL RELUCTANCE TO CHANNEL MORE MILITARY AID TO SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH... HAS FURTHER REDUCED THE AMERICAN MILITARY ROLE AND RAISED DOUBTS ABOUT FUTURE US INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASIAN CONTINENT..."

"IN TOKYO, THERE IS APPREHENSION THAT THE DIMINISHING US INFLUENCE MIGHT HARM JAPANESE FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC POLICY... BUT (US) OFFICIALS... SAY THERE ARE NO PLANS TO REDUCE THE AMERICAN MILITARY COMMITMENT TO JAPAN... IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE--- A PERIOD THEY DEFINE AS AT LEAST FIVE YEARS..."

"THE ONCE DOMINANT US INFLUENCE IN SOUTH KOREA HAS WANED, BUT THE LATTER FEELS THE US INFLUENCE SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED FURTHER..."

"FROM BANGKOK, IT WAS CLEAR THAT SINCE THE DOWNFALL OF THE LAST MILITARY REGIME IN THAILAND 17 MONTHS AGO, THE ERA OF CLOSE THAI-US COOPERATION WAS OVER..."

"IN MALAYSIA, TOO OFFICIALS FEAR THAT THE DECLINING US INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA COULD LEAD TO CHANGING GEOPOLITICAL REALITIES IN THE AREA."

D. APRIL 14: NORTHERN-STATE' NEW NIGERIAN EDITORIAL, "INDO-CHINA THE LESSON FOR THE AMERICAN," SAYS: UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 03447 151614Z

"THE NEWS FROM INDO-CHINA IS BLEAK FOR THE AMERICANS... BUT FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD THE (COLLAPSE OF LON NOL AND THIEU REGIMES)... DOES NOT COME AS A SURPRISE AND SHOULD NOT CAUSE ANY CONSTERNATION.

"AMERICAN'S PRESENT PREDICAMENT ARISES FROM THEIR BACKING THE WRONG LEADERS..."

"BUT ALL IS NOT LOST FOR THE AMERICANS. THE  
65,000 AMERICAN LIVES LOST IN INDO-CHINA AND THE ENORMOUS  
RESOURCES EXPENDED BY THE AMERICANS ... WILL NOT BE IN VAIN  
IF THE CRUCIAL LESSON OF THE WAR IS LEARNED. THE LESSON IS  
THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE TO SORT OUT THEMSELVES....  
"IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE NATIONALISTS WHO ARE  
COMING TO POWER IN INDO-CHINA WILL NOT EMBARK ON THE WHOLESAL  
SLAUGHTER OF THEIR ENEMIES..."

E. APRIL 13: MIDWEST STATE NIGERIA OBSERVER COMMENTARY  
(INDO-CHINA: AMERICA'S GREAT DELUSION") SAYS THE "GREAT FLAW"  
IN AMERICAN'S INDO-CHINA POLICY "EVER SINCE IT FIRST DECIDED TO  
HELP COLONIAL FRANCE" HAS BEEN TO "BACK THE WAKER SIDE WHILE  
DELUDING ITSELF THAT IT WAS NURTURING A WINNER."

COMMENTARY SAYS THAT "WITH OR WITHOUT (CONGRESSIONAL  
AID)... THE GOVERNMENT OF "... LONG ... WAS BOUND TO DISS-  
INTEGRATE." WRITER SAYS AMERICA "WAS SO OBSESSED WITH THE  
COMMUNISM IN THEIR ENEMY'S MAKEUP THAT THEY COULD NEVER BRING  
THEMSELVES TO ADMIT" THE STRONG NATIONALIST FEELING.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES BOTH SIDES FOR BREAKING CASEFIRE  
AGREEMENT, CONCLUDES:  
"IF ONE IS LOOKING FOR CULPRITS FOR THE PRESENT STATE  
OF INDO-CHINA ONE HAD BETTER BLAME THE UNFOUNDED OPTIMISM  
THAT HAS BEDEVILED OFFICIAL AMERICAN THINKING FOR SO LONG RATHER  
THAN THE CONGRESSMEN WHO NO LONGER BELIEVE IN ILLUSION  
OF VICTORY."  
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